IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. 10/568,346

Confirmation No. 2424

Applicant: Masahito IKAWA et al.

Filed: February 14, 2006

TC/AU: 4144

Examiner: Y. Berhane

Docket No.: 403586

Customer No.: 23548

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and/or Substitute Form PTO-1449 ("Form 1449") are submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner initial the appropriate area on the enclosed Form 1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form 1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the references listed thereon are prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date in order to remove any reference submitted herewith as prior art should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The	Informat	tion Disclosure Statement is being filed:	
	within any one of the following time periods: (a) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); (b) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 of an international application; (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or (d) before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.		
	37 CF	(a), (b), (c) or (d) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under TR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that wise closes prosecution in the application, and includes <i>one</i> of:	
	\boxtimes	the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below).	
	- or	_	
		the fee of \$180 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).	
	after the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).		
	contain 37 CFF \$180 as applicati	the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, and on or before not of the issue fee, and within thirty days of receiving each item of information need in the Information Disclosure Statement, and includes the Statement under R 1.704(d) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)" below), and the fee of set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below). NOTE: This is for original consexcept applications for a design patent, filed on or after May 29, 2000, wherein a papering only an Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 is ed.	
Citati	on to Ot	her Patent Applications	
	by the I patent a pertaini prosecu electron of prose	lowing U.S. patent applications are hereby brought to the attention of the ter. The U.S. patent applications claim subject matter that may be considered examiner to be similar to the subject matter claimed in the above-identified application. Accordingly, these U.S. patent applications and/or the prosecution ng thereto may include information considered to be material to the tion of the above-identified patent application. Since the Examiner has the access to the prosecution histories of these U.S. patent applications, copies ecution materials therefrom are not provided herewith, but will be promptly d if the Examiner so desires and requests same.	

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (check one)		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.			****	

Copic	es of the References				
	Copies of all of the references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.				
\boxtimes	Copies of U.S. patents and patent applications that are listed on the accompanying Form 1449 are not enclosed herewith. Copies of other references identified on the accompanying Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.				
	For each reference not in the English language, attached is an English translation, a concise explanation of relevance, an English-language equivalent/patent, an English-language abstract, or an English-language version of the search report or action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).				
	Copies of foreign search reports or foreign examination reports are enclosed as follows.				
SEARCHING OR EXAMINING OFFICE		APPLICATION COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO.	DATE OF MAILING OF SEARCH REPORT OR EXAMINATION REPORT	

			700		
	parent application(s) of furnished at that time, submitted herewith, so The Examiner is resperance with the reprocedure. In accordance	of the present ay Accordingly, to as not to burd ectfully request equirements set ance with 37 CH lier filing date upon the content of the co	ınder 35 USC 120 in wh	f the references were references are not e copies of references. he references in tent Examining f the parent application(s)	

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (check one)		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.			-	

Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)

	The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.	
	The undersigned hereby states that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.	
Stater	nent under 37 CFR 1.704(d)	
	The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.	
Fees		
\boxtimes	No fee is owed by the applicant(s). Charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216 in the amount of \$180.00 (37 CFR 1.17(p)).	
Authorization to Charge Additional Fees		

Instructions as to Overpayment

Credit Account No. 12-1216. Refund

Respectfully submitted,

LEYING VOIT & MAYER

700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300

Washington, DC 20005-3960 (202) 737-6770 (telephone) (202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

Date:

JAW/jj